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WHEN

THEODORE

IS

KING

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When Theodore is King

EXTRACTS TAKEN FROM A
COMPLETE ACCOUNT OF

THE NEW DECLARATION

OF THE CHANGE FROM THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO THE

UNITED KINGDOM OF AMERICA

AND THE ESTABLISHING OF

Theodore on the Throne

By

VITER STRIKESHOULDER

NEW YORK
CHAUNCEY HOLT
27 VANDEWATER STREET
1909

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PREFACE.

THE KING sits in the White Palace. It is Springtime of the New Era in THE KINGDOM OF UNITED AMERICA.

His chief ministers have left him for the day. With manifest eagerness he takes from its case a large volume, bound in purple. Laying it upon the arm of his great chair he opens it and reads attentively for a full hour. He does not proceed in course but seems to be "tasting it" here and there. At length, as if reading had rested him, with a murmured "Good, very good!" King Theodore closes the volume.

Now that he has laid it down you and I may take it and read. Perhaps we shall say with the King, "GOOD, VERY GOOD!"

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PART I.

Step 1. *The Source.*

Our story is drawn from the King's book, "A Complete Account of the Change from 'U. S. A.' to 'U. K. A.,' and of the Coronation of Theodore as King." It bears this curious date: "About the Year of the Double-Triple Triad, 1909." The writer's name, Viter Strikeshoulder, speaks distinctly for itself.

In a frank, vigorous, and sharply individual way, he sketches the Peaceful Revolution in the Western World in the years 1907——. Beginning when the nation was called "The United States," he carries the account forward until we are in "The Kingdom of United America," Theodore (or Diodorus, or Elnathan) on the throne.

We need not attempt to reproduce the book; as with Wordsworth's poetry, a part may be more than the whole. The King tasted; let us follow the King. In one respect, however, we will follow our author. He omits all titles whatsoever. "A man's a man" seems to be the watchword.

Step 2. *The Strain.*

We read that in the years 1907—— relations between "class" and "mass" became so strained that the people would endure no longer. Rich men assured the laborer that his wages were higher and his condition better than in the old world. The latter declared that he was not in the old world but in the fertile, abounding new. Told that he fed better than did Queen Elizabeth, he declined to be

content even with the royal standards of three hundred years ago.

Men declared that the land produced enough each year to keep everyone in comfort, that old ways and standards had ruined the nations, and that a new order, based on fellow-service, must be set up here and now before it should be too late. They claimed that no one should have more than he himself earned or was willing to earn, that the possession of more than he needed by any man was proof that wealth was not justly divided.

But the rich paid no heed. By agile dodging, now behind State charters, now behind the Federal Constitution, they managed to evade the control of commissions, legislatures, and courts. Food and the necessary things of life rose to prices almost prohibitive. They who produced had small share in their product, while many who produced nothing wallowed in luxuries. Middle men were reaping vast profits. The probe of investigation never failed to open a state of things sickening to every honest man. Care for human life and social happiness seemed to be forgotten. But the evil-doers laughed and went boldly on their ruthless way.

It was clear that industrial peace and progress could never come so long as men sought personal riches and aggrandizement. Effort to build permanent prosperity on such a foundation was mere "daubing with untempered mortar."

Step 3. The Change.

Then strange quiet fell upon the people. Talk gave place to sober, earnest thinking. There was no open rebellion, yet men agreed that a change must come. They hoped to find a way by which, without breaking the Union, this nation might move as one in a common purpose of right to every man.

Messages, suggestions, pledges of co-operation ran

swiftly, secretly, back and forth like magnetic currents in the earth. Laws with iron teeth were hinted. At length it became clear that all depended upon the rich. If they held on their way dark shadows lay before, for the poor would bear it no longer, but if they came freely into the new movement prosperity and happiness would be multiplied for all. In either case a new movement, a new state of things must be and that without delay.

Rumors of this deep determination reached the "classes." For a time they went on unheeding. "Let the people chatter," they said, "what do we care? We are safe." But the rumble of purposeful millions made itself heard above the clink of gold. Thoughtful men became anxious whither this would lead.

Urged partly by dread, partly by good sense, even the "financiers," as they were called, began to weary of their work and to long for a better way. "Call it fear; call it selfishness; call it mastery of the higher nature, or what you will," says Strikeshoulder, "as by one sweep of conviction, wealth changed its mind."

Here he describes a meeting. It appears to be in a mansion on the avenue. A park lies opposite. Mils is speaking. Listen.

"A ruined country has no attraction for us. We may be Samson but we must not pull the temple down about our ears. England coined the blood of her tenants and later of her innocent children into shillings."

"Mournfully true," said Andreas, "to-day many of her 'nobles' are ignoble; her poor a hopeless multitude. Her evils are chronic. It is wicked to bring this pestilent tree across the wide, free seas and plant it on American soil."

"Repulsive. Impossible!" cried Bishop, amid a murmur of approval.

"Clearly I see," said a woman of gracious yet commanding presence, "that our children are being robbed of that sense of responsibility which makes moral fiber."

Thus for many pages the conversation goes on, the richest men of the country taking part. They agreed that a crisis was at hand. "See," cried Jonson, "millions of immigrants are coming to us, many of them cold, selfish peoples, trained to hate all government. We must stand together, rich and poor, to save the country."

So the "classes" had a mind to yield with some grace to the inevitable. But what to do and how to do it—that was still in the unknown.

Step 4. *The Plan.*

Three men are deep in conversation. Where they are we are not told nor is the precise date put down. They are walking together.

"I never saw the people so restless, so determined, so intelligent."

"Nor I, Abot," said Huze. "They have borne wonderfully, but I am convinced that the breaking point is near unless some peaceful way is found."

"That is the very thing—a peaceful way; concessions on both sides." It was Gompers who spoke.

The three walked on in silence for a time. At length, we read, the eldest glanced keenly at the others; then his cheery voice rang out:

"Gentlemen, what do you think of this plan?" The others listened. "I suggest that we gather the people—all the people, and trust to the good sense of men standing together on American soil to reach a fair understanding. I believe the rich are convinced that their wealth is in danger. The laws are defied. Bad legislation is on our statute books. We may find even the Constitution outworn by a century's hard use."

The others agreed. "Now, how shall we work this out?"

"Well," continued the leader, "great meetings are impressive. Let the people be called together and the case stated, temperately but frankly, and with no reserve. Let

poor and rich be assured of just dealing, such as we have not had in this land, else had we not been in our present plight."

"Would you seek decisions then and there?" asked Gompers.

"I think not. Let the great questions be stated and the meeting thrown open. Let there be free discussion—I say discussion, not controversy. Then let committees be chosen to outline definite action and report later at similar meetings."

"And some of the points?" said Huze, reflectively.

"You know, Huze," said Gompers, smiling, "and no man can state them better."

"Such as these, I suppose, tariff, corporations, rights of labor, federal and state relations."

"Yes," cried Gompers, "and a most 'Roman' committee must call together those who have more than a certain amount of wealth and lay before them a method whereby, with their co-operation, the excess may be diffused among those who have produced it, according to merit."

The rest looked grave and no one spoke for a time.

"I believe it is worth trying," said Huze.

"What choice have we?" asked Abot. "To be silent means revolution, with ruin. To go forward means revolution, too, but deliberate, peaceful, and with the responsibility in the right place. Besides, what a leader we have!"

"Exactly," assented Gompers. "There is no use in talking of this man or that. The people will have no one but Theodore. He is not perfect, but he has stood the fire."

"These be strong reasons," said Huze. "Now let us mark out our course—in the rough."

The men talked long together, maturing the plan. They agreed to meet three days later. "We must consider carefully," they said, "not to determine whether we will go ahead, but how."

Thus began The Peaceful Revolution of 190—.

Three days pass; again the men are together.

"What do you say, then, brothers? Shall we try to work out a complete program for the mass meeting?" It was Abot who spoke.

"The more I think it over," said Huze, "I incline to the belief that it would be wiser to make a few suggestions and let others come from the audience spontaneously. Above all, this must be a people's movement. Let some representative man state the case in general terms and then call for opinions. At least, that is my view."

"Who is the man?" asked Gompers.

The three looked at each other and a significant smile spread over their faces. Each divined the other's thought.

Huze spoke. "There is one man, and but one, in the United States who can do it."

"And that man is Theodore," said Abot.

"Not a doubt about it," assented Gompers. "The people respect him for his able honesty. Good men rest in him and bad men know he is right, in the main. To open a new era for eighty million people is a task to suit him. He will do it."

"I agree with you fully," said Huze. "Should not some of us see him before we go further?"

"I am to consult him on business this week," said Abot. "What do you say? Shall I carry this message?"

To this they agreed. Having prepared the following letter, they adjourned:

Step 5. *The Letter.*

To Theodore, Princeps:

Dear Sir—Three men whom you know, Huze, Gompers, and myself, have found ourselves of one mind on the following points: The nation approaches a crisis; the "masses" daily grow more sensible of their wrongs, more conscious of their might. Wealth goes blindly on, defiant of both

protest and warning. Laws that touch them are poorly enforced or inadequate.

In view of this, we have planned a simultaneous meeting in every town and city. We hope that you will make a statement of the situation, the same to be delivered perhaps in New York, but especially to be printed and sent all over the land in time for every meeting to consider it.

If convenient, I will call upon you at four, the day after to-morrow. This is written that you may have time to think the matter over before we speak together.

Sincerely yours,

Abot, Gompers, Huze.

Step 6. The Consent.

On page 87 of the volume is the meeting between Theodore and Abot. The former speaks.

"It shall be done. It must be done. The difficulties are tremendous, but the American people are miracle workers. Chains of gold are hardest to break, but we must not think of that. It is a crisis; we will meet it."

Said Abot: "We will follow your lead, but not lag in the rear. By 'we' I mean the good men in our borders out of every nation under heaven—the American people."

Then methods were discussed and a plan of action laid down. As the men arose and clasped hands, Theodore said: "The sound 'horse sense' of the country will surely carry this thing to success."

Step 7. The Council.

With Princeps enlisted in the great movement, the reticence which had obtained hitherto ceased. To let the people know—all the people—quickly and widely, was the thing desired.

On the following day the Princeps called together his "family." It cannot be denied that there was anxiety in his mind, for he meant to lay the matter before them. But

he simply stated the case, referring to the visit of Abot and the deliberations leading up to it. To his surprise, he found substantial agreement. Taf was the first to speak.

"I am confident that this is a wise plan. Some move we must make. If we do not move, we shall be moved. Revolution is imminent. I hope it may be peaceful. It will be if the rich see the peril and act of their own accord."

"I cannot forget," said Corsica, "historic crises in the land of my birth. If the nobility could have done, in the middle of the eighteenth century, what they had to do before its end, they might have saved the revolution. I think the American people are too cool-headed to repeat the madness of the Paris Commune, but something they will do, and that soon."

"Yes," said the head of the "family," "I think we shall keep sane, if not sweet."

Others spoke, some with more confidence, some with less. but all in the same courageous spirit. When the council broke up, Theodore felt that these trusted statesmen were with him. None denied that there were difficulties, but they were ready to go forward.

Step 8. *The Preparation.*

Strikeshoulder tells how the news spread through the length and breadth of the land. The Princeps prepared no long, set speech. In a few days his statement was ready. Copies were struck off and sent from ocean to ocean. Postmasters were asked to call the meetings, either themselves presiding or inviting a leading man to do so. In many cases the chairman was the mayor, or perhaps a congressman. In New York City Chote was selected to preside.

The newspapers were on fire with curiosity. While the general purpose of the great meeting was known there was enough mystery about it to carry interest to a high pitch. Men like Abot, Shah, Parkst, Heeny, Graves, Wil-

shir and others published brief hints of what might be expected. It was in the air that a great event was impending, that it might open a new path to the nation, and that no man could afford to be indifferent.

Details of arrangement follow: the method of procedure, control of the crowds, the distribution of Theodore's statement. At last all was ready and the great day came.

Step 9. The Meeting.

We turn to the chapter in the King's book where the meeting in Madison Square Garden is described. The whole country was in a state of high excitement. Crowds everywhere—in Chicago and St. Louis, in Philadelphia and Baltimore, Boston and San Francisco, Seattle, Omaha, Atlanta—but nowhere were there greater throngs than in New York. The spell which ensues when a mighty people is stirred by one hope, fixed in one determination, came upon the country. Gathered in groups, men spoke low and earnestly. Long before the hour the Garden was filled and throngs waited in the Square. Many remarked upon the order and quiet which prevailed.

Theodore was expected at eight. At 7.45 an automobile appeared moving up Broadway. In it were four men—the Princeps, Huze, and two stout guards. Suddenly, near Twenty-second street, the auto stopped. People began to crowd around it when, like Scots from the heather, appeared a score of detectives. As they gathered about the car Theodore rose and lifted his hand. The cheering crowds took off their hats and a great hush fell. He spoke:

"Americans all, we are here as your guests. When we go to visit our friends we do not take armed guards. I thank these faithful men about me, but I hereby excuse them from further attendance upon me. Gentlemen, go where you like, for your own pleasure. Theodore is among his friends."

Then, with a smile, he added, motioning toward the two

guards in the auto, "These men may finish their ride; we two will walk."

With this the men sprang out and began to walk quietly along Twenty-third street and up the avenue. "It would be beyond words," says the writer, "to describe the effect of this upon the multitude. No loud, vociferous bawling, but a peculiar humming or crooning sound, deep, almost deafening, but pleasant to the ear, as if men murmured to each other, 'Our Princeps, our Gubernator!'"

Word of what was passing ran quickly through the vast audience within. As the two strode through the great entrance, coming just as every man there had come, the democratic act put the audience in the best and cheeriest humor. It was a happy omen for the meeting.

The guests stepped briskly upon the platform. Arrangements had been made with tact. Instead of an imposing structure railed off from the pit, embellished with an array of dignitaries, it was but a foot or so above the floor level. The seats were carried up and around it so that, to one entering, there hardly seemed to be a platform. A speaker could literally lay his hand on the nearest of his hearers.

As if to heighten the effect some of the city's most noted financiers sat side by side with the poorest and plainest there. It had been agreed that there should be no handshaking. Delany, Abot, Gompers, Butla, were among those nearest. They with others rose and nodded pleasantly as chairs were set for the newcomers. Smiles and simple dress with entire absence of formality made the meeting seem a family gathering.

After a few minutes in which they chatted, now with one, now with another, the chairman rose, turned first to the Princeps, then to the audience, and said, "Theodore." There was a burst of applause which (so says Viter) grew fuller and mellower in tone when the guest, rising, gave his chair to a white-haired old soldier who had made his way to the platform and stood leaning heavily on his cane.

Then slowly silence ensued. With a sweeping gesture the Princeps raised his hand and said, "The free, American people in council to-night."

No formal address, no dictation, no instruction. Every man felt himself called to be earnest, broad-minded, judicious. The speaker held a copy of the statement. With slight reference to it he went on:

"Not a man, woman, or child left out. A just and kind spirit in all the land. We speak of a 'happy' people. This nation is a unit; 'if one member suffer all suffer.' So long as we have one little child for whom the best is not provided we fall short.

"Joy comes with deeds. We, the American people, are great doers. A free field, a square deal for every one. Work enjoined upon all who can work, with a wage set by worth. A man's worst foe is he who cuts off toil and toil's reward. A nation's strength is in its common people. To lack work and its wage is bad; to have so much money that the incentive fails is quite as bad.

"Laws must be made and heeded, burdens borne, benefits shared by all of us, fairly, honestly, willingly. The Spartans sought in their rough way to make men brave and hardy. We would have men wise, good, useful, happy. They chose out a few; we count every man a man, every noble man a nobleman. There may be a leveling down of material possessions but a great leveling up of power, comfort, manhood.

"We have made missteps, but we are not lost. By a strong, united effort we shall regain the path and move on aright. Laws must be examined, methods probed, wrong restrained. I merely say aloud what we all think and know. This is our council—yours and mine together.

"Now, I propose two things:

"1. That you who are here speak your minds frankly.

"2. That before we separate committees be chosen to consider the various forces in our national life, cutting off

with unflinching hand what is bad, but developing to the full what is good.

"We are on an upward path. Let us keep clear heads, stout hearts, and move on as one man wherever right shall lead."

Listeners without waited to hear applause. They wondered that it was so quiet while the speaker went on in his direct, deliberate way. But they who heard were calm, intent, thoughtful. Applause broke out as he turned and gently pushed back the old soldier, who half rose, and took the seat offered him by the chairman.

Among the first to follow was the great financier, Nathan Stonebridge. As he began men watched him eagerly. They felt that his position might be the crux of the whole matter. They had expected bitter opposition from him and men of his class. But it soon appeared that the call of the nation had been heard and heeded.

We draw from his brief, impromptu speech the substance. Looking around him with a smile, grim yet kindly, he began:

"We have seen a light. We are ready to try a new thing in history. Men gifted by nature with the power to acquire wealth have always done so with life-long persistence. The past tells one tale throughout. We do not like it; we are ready for a change. Our money has not brought us the satisfaction expected.

"We cannot rest while the cry of the underfed, the ignorant, the suffering is unheeded. I, and I think many are with me, stand ready to co-operate in radical measures for the diffusion of wealth. We think it can be brought about in peaceful ways. We agree that a great nation should have happy people. This condition we find not in the possession of much by a few but of enough by all. We have looked at this matter soberly as is our custom and are content to take our share of life's good with the rest."

Then indeed a shout of approval broke forth. Men said

to each other, "This is amazing. We have misjudged the man. Plainly he means what he says—and he is the leader among financiers. It is revolutionary. Carry this out and the country will be a shining example for the world. In truth he is a great man."

The chairman let this buzz of conversation go on for a time. A speech so significant could not be grasped in a moment. At length Roc rose to speak. He declared that if toilers throughout the land could have heard these words before they would never have felt so bitter toward millionaires. He did not believe that a true American could or should be content while one person lacked the means to make the most of himself. He affirmed that labor had no apology for laziness, whether in the poor or the rich.

Turning toward Stonebridge he said, "There is use for some of your money, but quite as much for your high ability. I shall oppose any change that does not enlist such men to guide it. I shall be glad to see wealth widely but not carelessly used. Stonebridge and his fellows will find the dollars invested in brightening lives the best investment they ever made, if they consider happiness good interest."

Roc's speech had called forth exclamations at almost every sentence: "That's it. You've said it. Right, right!"

Far over at one side a rugged looking man of medium height called out, "Mr. Chairman." Everybody looked and Chote, recognizing a leader, cried, "Finly."

"If you please, I will take the platform." Up he sprang upon his own chair and they laughed at the shrewd hit. "I would rather hear these words to-night and see this audience than 'see Naples.' No one can realize what wealth may do until he comes to grips with young men, until he knows their struggles, their hopes, their aspirations. It has been no small handicap that we have seen, or seemed to see, the leaders among our people drawing to themselves with passionate energy and success the money, the

goods, the power which are proper prizes for faithful labor wherever it is done.

"But I do not believe that this is our only task. Now that the ploughshare is in let us sink it deep and drive it through. Let us bury the weapons raised against each other by labor and capital. These words stand for great social forces, each weak without the other, each strong in the other.

"Nor must we neglect broader interests, for we share in them. Education, municipal government and national, the laws, the courts, the tariff, the color problem, immigration, temperance, the land question, the railroads. Shall we not be in earnest to adjust our affairs to the new and nobler spirit?

"This nation is a child growing up. Though we have made mistakes, we must not persist in them as an old, hide-bound nation might. We can hold ourselves off and look ourselves over before it is too late. We have begun; let us finish. We will set the great nation upon a new path to heights of which no man has dreamed."

A strong, deep chorus of assent followed these crisp sentences.

But we must not dwell here too long. Others spoke and the scope of suggestion was broad. Rich men declared that they were sick of the game. They had succeeded, but one success created hunger for another. There was no rest in it, no comfort. They were ready for changes that would give the fruits of labor to the laborer and would claim from every man his share in the world's work.

They who knew the feelings of the poor admitted, calmly, courteously, that the strain had been severe, that hard words and harder deeds would surely have followed had this change of spirit been delayed. They discerned no patronizing air in the rich, but an honest desire to do right. In this lay the hope of progress. Brain and brawn must be more evenly rewarded. They did not expect the revolution

to come in a moment; it might take a generation. But with a humane spirit all classes would be content, while the adjustment might proceed faster than any anticipated.

At length the resolution proposed by Theodore was brought forward. It had been carefully worked out by Wilcox and provided that, in New York, Huze, Ivins, Gompers, Hilis, and Lo should formulate the subjects, many of them discussed in the speeches. This committee received power to increase its number and instructions to work with representatives from other meetings to the end that a platform might be prepared and a course of action marked out.

All America had been hot with discussion for many months. Since the committee was certain to be made up of experts no long time could be needed for a report.

Such was the issue of the New York meeting. As the address of the Princeps had been sent to the ends of the country, action covering the same ground was taken by each meeting, the details being left to local judgment. The result was that in a short time strong, grave men, well qualified, were studying public questions from a standpoint entirely new. Casting off the bonds of selfish expediency and realizing the vast resources placed for the first time at the service of the people, they squared everything by the simple law of right for all men.

Thus the nation entered new paths. The rich saw their riches pluming wings. They could only help direct the flight. But they were honestly surprised to find this work more interesting and absorbing than any they had known. Full of energy and ambition, they found that, to a wise man, there was wider scope and higher enjoyment in directing a noble uplift of the people than in heaping dollars.

And the poor, the patient poor, long taught to bear in silence, were quiet in the contented assurance of better things at hand. The meeting had been an object lesson;

both in the Garden and in the street the rich and poor had met together on even terms for a common purpose.

Throughout the country similar meetings were held on that eventful night. The Auditorium in Chicago witnessed scenes like those in New York. Slightly more demonstrative perhaps, the West uttered even stronger expressions of purpose. Once only was harmony interrupted.

When the chairman, Kenesaw, called for opinions, they came from every side—brief, temperate, yet full of that frank decision characteristic of the great Central City of the future. Suddenly, from a distant corner, arose the voice of a little, old man, plainly from the country.

With the air of one accustomed to rule in his small bailiwick, he shouted, "Mr. Chairman!" As everybody looked the latter said, "The gentleman from ——?" and hesitated.

"Scrabble Flat," yelled the little man, and went quickly on. "This is all wrong, I tell you. I object to it."

He paused, as if that settled the matter. Then he cried, "It wouldn't do no sort o' good. I own a big bean-pole farm down in Scrabble. I'm the richest man there. I own sixteen horses, for we're twenty mile from the railroad. Now, s'pose we divided everything up, how long would it stay so? Why, in less 'n a week——" But he got no further.

Strikeshoulder says that when the audience heard this ancient, moss-grown objection, a sound arose which was indescribable. A laugh? A groan? A cry of "Hush!" as some felt that the age and sincerity of the man should be respected. Whatever the sound, the critic was drowned in it. As soon as the presiding officer could be heard he quietly observed that no such course as the gentleman feared was intended, that the new regime would only carry out the opening sentence of the Declaration of Independence, now held to be a truism by every American.

A striking speech was that by Nels Arma. He said, in

part, "Prosperity has made us careless. I do not believe one of the men called wealthy in this country really sat down and thought just what the effect of his business course would be. When a man finds he can do a thing which others try in vain he likes to do it. Should it involve risk, should it call out all his energies, then he would not breathe American air if he did not feel the stimulus of adventure.

"We have been like steamboats racing on the Mississippi, careless of the means we used, careless of harm to others, careless of everything but winning. Some of us have won —at least we have attained what we sought. To go on would be to conquer other worlds like the one already ours. What is the use? From motives of mere selfishness, if you please, we are ready to enter the new paths, counting it a more interesting work to spread prosperity through a great nation than to mass money around ourselves. We do not doubt our ability to keep the wolf from our doors while we help to keep him from the doors of other people."

The speech was received with tremendous applause. Kenesaw had the good judgment to let the buzz of conversation between man and man go on for fully ten minutes. Nobody cared to go behind such statements. Whether fear of worse or hope of better; whether, as the speaker had affirmed, the conclusion of the rich that it was more "interesting" to help build a great, happy nation than to heap dollars—whatever the ground might be, they who heard felt in their hearts that Arma meant what he said and that the new movement needed just such men to guide it.

In Chicago, as elsewhere, the resolutions were received and men chosen to consider national questions. How they should act and when report was left largely to discretion. But the spirit of reform was so universal that when the evening closed the nation was sure it had entered a door of hope not to be closed.

Next morning the newspapers all over the country were full of the great meeting. It is worth while to note that the King's volume does not speak of meetings but of "a meeting," as if conscious of the words in the Garden, "The Free American People in Council." There was no criticism; indeed, there could be none. He would have been a rash man and a lonely who should have tried to make even an eddy in the current of public opinion that bore onward, right onward.

By having men gather in their home towns and cities to inaugurate the movement, it was made truly national at the start. None were ignorant, none listless. In thousands of places you might have heard conversation like this:

"Well, Jonathan; been down to the city? What's the news?"

"Oh, they're all talking of one thing."

"And what might that be?"

Then would follow a description of the plan. He who had heard of it went to the leading man of the town and soon talk was busy over it in the shops, on farms, in the stores. Presently the mail brought copies of the statement with orders for their distribution at the mass meeting. This pointed the way for action. The leader took up the duty, caused notices to go everywhere, and secured the largest hall for the assembly. He disclosed enough of the subjects to stimulate thought and discussion.

The book declares that, so far as information went, not a single place in the Union was without such a meeting. In some thinly settled parts there was a gathering in the open air at a central point, to which men came from a wide circle. It seemed as though the very winds carried the tidings. Whenever and wherever the people met there was one conclusion: the past was like an egg whose shell is burst with new life, never to be thrust back into its old prison.

Step 10. *Theodore in the Bowery.*

There is an interesting event set down here. In New York the Princeps spent the night, after the great assembly, at the home of a citizen not named in the volume. Perhaps Strikeshoulder wished to avoid distinctions. But he says that in the morning there was great stir among the detectives. When, between eight and nine, they insisted upon knocking at his chamber door, behold, he was not there!

The discovery was terrifying. Dreading the worst, the two or three who had made the discovery were hesitating over their course. Well they might believe that the city, and soon the nation, would be aroused to extreme wrath over a neglect apparently so gross, nor could they doubt where the storm of indignation would fall.

But while they stood half-dazed a strong, cheery voice rang out in the vestibule, and the guest himself, beaming with good will, strode in.

"Well, gentlemen, I've had a morning walk, and a fine one, too. I have been calling on my friends."

For a moment the guards were relieved, thinking he had gone out with others of their number—in any case he had been well cared for. What was their amazement to find that he had given them all the slip, that he had arisen before seven and had made his way out, walking briskly along with slouch hat over his eyes, until he found himself at the corner of Hester street and the Bowery. As he glanced upward at the street sign a keen-eyed Italian caught sight of his face and cried out, "'Il presidente, Il presidente."

Chuckling to himself the Princeps turned sturdily eastward across Chrystie street. But the cry was heard and taken up. As he reached Forsyth street, people were hurrying toward him from every quarter. At first the cry, "Il presidente" prevailed, but soon it was mingled with greetings in every dialect known to cosmopolitan New York. Men who had started to run toward the center of

attraction, for no clear reason, as soon as they heard the call and caught the pet name of Theodore, re-echoed it and ran the faster.

For an instant the Princeps hesitated—not from fear—far from it. He does not fear the face of man. Rather was he thinking how best to meet and cheer and satisfy this throng of his fellow-beings. Not heeding the condition of the street, he stepped straight to the center where Forsyth and Hester cross, lifted his hat, waved it once in the air, and shouted, "A brisk and happy morning to you, my friends!" Replacing his hat high upon his forehead, so as to show his smiling face to the full, he grasped the hands nearest to him.

This continued for at least ten minutes. The visitor had a hearty word of cheer for every one. Few understood English, but his manner winged his words. Every moment the crowd grew denser. With his usual self-forgetting eagerness he had entered into the impromptu reception. But it was plain that he could not shake hands with all lower New York.

Then a new thing happened. Once or twice already men had offered to lift him on their shoulders, but he would not have it. "I stand even with you all," he cried, laughing, and they desisted. But the leaders saw that something must be done. Accordingly, a half-dozen stalwart fellows, moved by a common impulse, held back the crowd on the western side, making a kind of lane a few feet long. Before he noticed this, or at least caught its significance, a slender Polish woman seized a broom and, slipping under the arms of the bystanders, began to brush away the dirt along this lane. Then a man said to him in broken English, "You tired. We take you to Bowery car." Then Theodore understood their plan—the lane, the sweepers—for by this time other women had appeared with brooms. The crowd too caught the idea and gave back.

Thus, with laughter and high good-will, did this strange

guard convey their famous visitor along. He still grasped hands, especially those of the children, when he could reach them. It was not a scramble; there was no jostling, no rudeness. The Princeps felt in the mixed multitude a fine spirit of loyalty. The self-constituted guards were brethren; two Italians, one Jew, one a Slovak, and two others Russians. A sturdy Chinaman, with fun bubbling from his forty-five-degree eyes, tried to help, and no one made objection.

New York had never seen a sight like this. The lane was pushed steadily forward, and closed in behind—like Davy's wood path. As they reached the Bowery and the trolley track, the guest took pains to grasp the toil-worn hands of the sweepers, who had cleared his path, as well as those of the guards who had opened it before him. It was good to see him stand as man with man among those swarthy visaged fellows, to hear their efforts to make him understand their friendly feeling, to see shining in their faces the glow that is making this nation the light of all lands.

Presently a car approached. The Princeps sprang aboard, turned and cried, "A splendid future to us, every one!" He waved his hand, the gong clanged, and he rode away.

When the regular guards heard where their charge had been and how he had fared, they said meaningly to one another, "There will be no call for our services if this keeps on."

PART II.

Step 1. *Committee Work.*

Then several chapters of Strikeshoulder's book are taken up with the work of the committees. Voluntary redistribution of wealth, rates of interest, labor, prices, wages, hours, tariff, stock gambling, trusts, wills, intoxicants, homesteads, etc., are discussed, not as heretofore, for an intellectual tourney, but to produce results. Now that the will, the purpose, was right, men were surprised to find the way clear, hard problems easy, the impossible both desirable and practicable. Rich men agreed that the tension had been near the breaking point, that relief had come not a moment too soon.

On one of the committees we find Or, Barba, Bishop, Andreas, Hardman, and others. Andreas admits that he has found the responsibilities of wealth too heavy for him. "Yes," said Hardman, "I have tried to put money where it would serve men, but I do not know. I cannot judge. The needs are so multitudinous."

"Exactly!" cried Bishop, "millions of calls, each tiny and trivial to the world but vital to the one who utters it."

"And while these voices are unheeded the masses suffer. Their lives are stunted. They learn to hate those who should be their guides and friends."

It was Asta who spoke, and men listened.

Soon we read of a joint meeting of this committee with the one on labor. In fact, the two found that they must work together. Delany is speaking: "Wealth heaped up is like water stored above dry fields. It must be let down, but judiciously, as each plant may need."

Much thought was given to the scale of income proper to each man, woman, and child. Said Hil, "I have argued that wages were high enough, that a steady laborer could have what he needed, could educate his children and fill a respectable place in the community. If willing to deny

himself, he could even own a cottage and garden—perhaps an acre or so of land. But I cannot deny that, under our present system, I myself can command more wealth than all my employees put together."

"Just so; just so!" cried Bilt. "Our palaces, our yachts, our automobiles, our luxuries cry out against us."

To this there was general consent. So long as two men labor with equal zeal there is no reason why one should ride home in his auto to a palace while the other trudges wearily to a humble cottage. Wealth employs labor but does not labor employ wealth? Hitherto the actual maker has had no fair proportion of the things he has made. This mal-adjustment puts both parties "out of joint" and makes neither happy.

"Honestly," said Gold, "I cannot use my property, much less enjoy it. Sometimes I feel swamped by it. Yet the poor envy us! If they could only know the agony of the rich. Why don't we put millionairedom among the has-beens?"

"Doesn't it come to this?" said Felps. "A few have a share out of all proportion to the work they do. That destroys the social balance. Can one use wisely what he has not earned or done his honest best to earn? Why not base incomes on this principle?"

"No one can maintain," said Powderby, "that wages are sufficient so long as employers are heaping up fortunes as we have seen them in America. Why give so large rewards to cunning but so small to honesty, fidelity, industry?"

Others took up the discussion in the same spirit. We extract here and there:

"Has a brain worker a right to demand more of the product than a brawn worker?"

"No," was the answer; "let the former be offered the latter's place; would he take it? Would he go down into the mine and swing a pick hour after hour for the wage his brain work receives?"

"No, indeed;" said a railroad manager. "Life would not be worth living if one were chained to that. Though I call my work harder, I'd vastly rather do it. How I should fret if I were strapped to a whistle or a bell, and I always did hate to take orders from another man. It is the delight of my life to control things, to force them to go as I will. I couldn't stand the life of a laborer—and I wouldn't."

"It seems to me," said a grave gentleman, "that for the first time in history we are really united on fundamentals. Not competition but service may now be master. So long as the annual product would not go round and some must be left hungry, perhaps competition was pardonable. But now, at least in our country, there is plenty for all. Is not poverty, except in the idle and criminal, a proof of bad economics? Your fine establishments and mine, gentlemen, point out the trouble."

"I had not thought of these things," admitted a noted iron-master, who owned no less than six mansions.

"And I," said Fips, "have often said that workingmen would not use their time wisely even if short hours secured it to them. But I do not see how they could do worse in that respect than our rich men's sons. Certainly, no millionaire should complain that his employee will suffer from that leisure which he secures without measure for his own flesh and blood."

"Nor can it be shown," said Hopkin, "that diffusion of wealth will increase drunkenness. We hear much of intemperance among the masses, but I do not believe the case is as bad, man for man, as it is among the rich."

"I am satisfied," said Rees, "that the morals of the poor compare well with those of the wealthy."

A shadow of recollection seemed to fall upon the company. Thought of the past was unpleasant. Abot observed it and said, "We are brothers here. Let us turn from destructive to constructive; from the past which we do not

like to the future of magnificent promise. Is not this the problem? 'To produce wealth and divide it wisely enough for each to make the most of himself as a willing servant of his fellow men.' Is that right?"

"Quite right," was the response. "If any one can work and will not, neither shall he eat."

"In the great readjustment," Abot continued, "there must be inconvenience, even hardship for a time, in some instances. We are law-abiding, but many of our laws must be changed at once. For the people to rise and take property by force would be revolution. For the rich, of their own accord, to put their wealth at the service of the Commonwealth will be revolution likewise. This latter I call peaceful revolution."

"The rich could have blocked this advance," said Northrup, "if they had stood upon their legal rights. Popular indignation might have risen and ruthlessly stripped them. Then wealth would have fallen into unfit hands, and our last state would have been worse than the first. But because of the spirit now abroad, I expect to see the time when the poor as they are to-day shall be no longer with us. I believe that with 'nobler manners, purer laws,' defect and degeneracy will diminish until the care of the sick, the unbalanced, the criminal, shall hardly be counted a burden by the State.

"Therefore," said Crane, "I propose the following as ground principles:

"1. *No one shall have in any one year more wealth than will fairly meet the needs of himself and those naturally dependent upon him. The purpose shall be to enable him to make the most and best of himself as a servant of his fellow men.*"

Crane looked up and added, "I am aware that this standard is not perfectly easy to reach. It may take time, but a willing spirit will do it."

"That is the truth," said Jordn. "We shall have the wisdom of the whole people. If this principle is carried out I do not understand that there will be any rich."

"No," said Angel, "nor any poor, either. I have never found the poor bitter against the toiling rich. Mad and wrong as it is for a man to keep on adding to his hoard instead of using his powers for others, yet labor is such a leveler and has in it so much of native dignity that they who toil in poverty have a certain sympathy with those who toil in wealth. In fact, a man is about as rich or as poor as he feels. Many a one does not think he is in need until some one with more than he comes and casts his shadow over him. When none stand so high in millions as to throw broad, dark shadows over the land, when work is demanded of every one, when all know that they hold material wealth as they do mental, by using it, then not only poverty, but the sense of poverty, will cease, and men will be contentedly industrious."

"Some of us have amassed so much that we are top-heavy and uncomfortable," said Rine quietly.

"I suppose," said Lawsn, "we shall agree that one house ought to suffice for a family."

"Then we can take from some of you gentlemen several houses, or rather palaces, and perhaps you will be no less happy."

"Not a doubt about it," said Berdn. "I am sick of this knocking about from place to place—now north, now south, now west—now in America, now in Europe. One might as well have no home at all as try to live in half a dozen places."

"I am sure the clergymen and civic workers will be glad to have you stay in town for a much larger portion of the year," said Slisa.

It was agreed that the year's supply adapted to the year's need should be the guiding principle. Thus, in times of

distress, burdens would fall upon all alike, or rather upon each in proportion to his ability to bear.

Here Strikeshoulder turns aside to emphasize the point that men had to adjust themselves as well as their business relations. If they had found pleasure in preying upon each other they must now give themselves to a new pursuit, viz.: the keener interest and deeper joy found in spending their lives for the common good. And the author adds, looking back from the date of his volume, "Not only do all men now hold that the New Way is better, but some who clung to the old way longest find especial delight in giving themselves enthusiastically to the new."

After an adjournment we find the joint committee again proceeding with its work. Crane presents his second principle:

"2. *Surplus wealth shall be drawn off deliberately and naturally into the channels of need. Wages shall be raised, hours shortened; the things men must have shall be cheapened, but the rule shall be maintained that all possessions must be earned.*"

"I have not thought it wise to go into detail here," said the mover. "It is clear that many questions will arise which cannot be answered beforehand, nor settled by hard and fast rules. Granted the disposition now prevailing in this country and every one of them will be met and answered aright."

"That," said Taf, "is the true method—the empirical and tentative. We enter high and untrodden paths; the finger posts of the old, lowland ways will not answer here."

"Undoubtedly," said Fulla gravely, "public policy can be changed by statute. No political prejudice, class distinction, ancient custom—not even the Constitution itself—should hinder the operation of a fair, manly, American spirit. Guided and inspired by this, every good thing is ours."

Other committees considered subjects assigned to them, casting their conclusions into the form of resolutions. The chairmen met and reduced the whole to a platform or deliverance calculated to remedy the evils then afflicting the country. The one condition of success lay in the obedience of all to the first resolution.

So swiftly had the work moved that the result was ready two months from the date of the first meeting. Copies of it were scattered everywhere. Some declared that 50,000,000 were printed. They read as follows:

Step 2. The Declaration.

1. *Every member of society shall do his utmost to help the rest. All incomes shall be regulated by this standard.*

2. *No person over 21 years old shall receive in any one year more than* $1,000. *A married couple shall share their joint, personal income equally. They shall receive no more than* $600 *for the support of each child between 14 and 21, and* $400 *for each child under 14 years of age. The* $1,000 *limit shall be reached as rapidly as possible by increasing the rewards of industry. When there is enough for all who are faithful the standard may be raised.*

3. *No personally owned business or investment shall pay more than 2 per cent. profit per annum unless the sum received from all sources by any given family operating under Section 1 shall be less than is allowed in Section 2.*

4. *Wages shall be regulated by the nature of the work; the harder or more disagreeable service to have the higher pay.*

5. *All funds above a sufficient amount to meet the demands in Sections 2 and 3 shall be used*

a. *To decrease the cost of the necessary things of life—food, clothing, rent, etc.*

b. *To increase the rewards of labor actually performed.*

c. *To provide aid and comfort for the worthy who otherwise would fall below the common standards of living set in Section 2.*

d. *To provide for the weak and incompetent of all classes and conditions in their homes, to enhance the efficiency of all institutions of an eleemosynary character, whether for needs physical, mental, or moral, and to provide such new ones as may be required. (This article shall be held to include schools, libraries, hospitals, asylums, missionary and temperance societies, art galleries, parks, gardens, etc.)*

e. *To improve the cheapness and efficiency of public service of every kind and to create new service as needed. (This includes all "common carriers," so called, lighting, power service, communication, etc.)*

f. *To provide that each person may have one year of rest in every seven to use as desired with an income of* $1,000 *for that year.*

6. *All national expenses shall be met by tariff on imports, which shall be for revenue only.*

7. *There shall be no unearned increment.*

8. *All stocks and paper obligations shall represent actual value.*

9. *Gambling of all kinds shall be equally unlawful, whether in stocks, shares, or bargains, or with gambling implements so called.*

10. *No will shall be valid. When a person dies his control of wealth shall cease.*

11. *The manufacture, distribution, sale or use of any intoxicant as a beverage shall be unlawful.*

12. *No one shall own more land than the equivalent of one "homestead" of* 160 *acres for himself, all tillage or forest, and one for each child over* 14 *years old; the latter to belong to the said child at* 21. *Any single man or woman may own one such "homestead" likewise.*

13. *No child under* 16 *shall be employed at labor, but shall attend school as required heretofore.*

14. *There shall be a strict and uniform Federal divorce law.*

15. *Every post office shall be a postal savings bank.*

16. *Other regulations shall be made and these modified from time to time as the people by initiative and referendum may agree.*

Step 3. The Result.

When these resolutions were read by the country there was serious discussion. They seemed to turn the world upside down. Men who had squandered tens of thousands every year were bewildered. The air was thick with questions: "How can it be carried out?" "How can one live on a thousand a year?" "Who shall make the adjustments?" To this last query the forceful and slightly bitter reply was given that "adjustments" had been made heretofore with a strong hand by the rich, and in their own selfish interests; that the new plan could hardly be worse.

The laboring classes were quiet but determined. The experiment must be made. The rich were convinced that it was too late to recede. Still, it is uncertain what might have been the outcome but for the unexpected. Men of wealth had dreaded the change less for themselves than for their wives and daughters. But it was the latter who saved the day. They had been sharply criticised for their heartless extravagance. Indeed, many felt that they could not have the true American heart and yet squander in idle folly more than would keep many of their worthy sisters in comfort. Under the power of the new spirit, however, they vindicated their high character. Their influence was thrown strongly on the side of the resolutions. They declared that in carrying these out they were willing to bear their part, and they did.

Viter Strikeshoulder gives no record of a formal vote. The platform appears to have been adopted by common consent. The changes proposed brought hardship for a time here and there, as all changes must. Some predicted that enterprise would fail of incentive, that business would languish. But they who had been capitalists now entered

heartily into the scheme for placing wealth where it would do the most good. This they found even more fascinating than the game of piling millions.

There was no thought of wasting the abilities of any man. The laborer, skilled or not, must do his share of work in his own sphere. It was the same with the financier. He had learned how to guide vast concerns successfully and the new plans bade him continue. Under his trained hand individual holdings were united in great corporations, managed by the very men who had amassed the wealth. But these were indeed "trusts" in a good sense, not evil.

Shares of stock in the corporation were offered to as many buyers as possible, to be paid for in prescribed installments. Thus a man whose income fell below the limit could take a part of his earnings and buy stock. The next year he would receive a reasonable dividend thereon which, with his current earnings, would bring his income for that year nearer to the $1,000 limit. "In this way," says Strikeshoulder, "some have already reached the maximum, while thousands are on the way to it. Property is used in masses but is coming to be owned by the people. A few years will see, instead of a few hundreds ruinously rich, hundreds of thousands with enough to make them of highest value to the commonwealth."

Here follows an elaborate description of the way in which the resolutions were carried out. Economic problems which had baffled human wisdom now solved themselves because the old conditions were reversed. Men put the interests of others first. In doing so they found a deep and abiding satisfaction.

Some, in the habit of spending thousands each year, were sure they could not live on one. But when they found that not even this sum was theirs until earned, they solved the problem by going to work. Thereupon they discovered that the idler is the spendthrift. Give him useful employment and he is too busy and happy for squander-

ing. A spirit of self-respect grew up; even to think of spending what one had not earned became contemptible.

It is true that many were added thus to the army of toilers. Some feared lest wages be crowded down. But it was found that when the actual yearly product of the country was divided according to labor performed there was enough and much to spare for all.

The mansions of fashionable resorts and on "Quality Avenue" in town were ill-adapted to the new methods. But it was agreed that so small an obstacle must not hinder the coming of a national blessing. Beautiful and instructive objects, which hitherto had been seen by only a few in these houses, were put where all could see them and profit by the sight. Of the buildings themselves, some were remodeled to adapt them to new standards; others were replaced. Natural taste and genius were expended upon public buildings and works of value suitable to put in them.

The genuine business of the Stock Exchange required a part of one floor. The rest of the magnificent structure was used for a "monetary museum." Here specimen coins and representations of value from every land and age are being gathered for free exhibition.

In a time surprisingly short the changes were nearing completion. It was as if oxygen had been added to the air. The zest of life was heightened. Smiles came with active, energetic good will. Men declared that the old, selfish past was like a hideous dream. Nations of the Old World looked on and wondered. Suddenly Keir Hardie uttered the thought in many minds: "Why do we groan under old yokes? What America is doing we can do."

Strikeshoulder tells us that while he writes the air is a-quiver with Marconigrams bearing news of peaceful revolution even in nations struggling with old, ingrained wrong. "The better way, the better way. The way of true men. We will follow it, forcibly if we must, but peaceably if we may." Such is the world's hope as it considers the great American model.

PART III.

Step 1. *Party Spirit Dying.*

To this brief yet important account of the entrance of new things into the real nation, we add notes on the change from U. S. A. to U. K. A., and how it came. Strike-shoulder assures us that the passing of the old order and the uplifting of the masses gave a strong stimulus to careful thought on public questions. Men took fresh interest in affairs because standards were elevated. Office was divorced from grasping greed and wedded to service.

A great election was approaching. Discussion everywhere, earnest but broad and considerate. The more the people studied the more clearly they saw that party divisions, like those of religious sects, were often based on names and non-essentials; that at heart they were one. The great platform, found in the earlier part of the King's book, had done more than was dreamed. It had eradicated the real evils of society, and it had taught the people that they could all unite upon a single statement of principles. Wherefore it seemed absurd to agree upon essentials yet stick tenaciously to old party names and shibboleths.

Habit, however, is strong; some "Republicans" and "Democrats" tried to sound the party slogans, but the thrill was gone out of them. To put it in a homely way, the people felt that they were about better business. Section 11 of the Resolutions had left the Prohibitionists without an issue. Labor had come to its rights. Wealth was doing what wealth should do for all alike. Peace was more winsome than party.

Step 2. *Blacks and Whites.*

Our author describes a plot hatched by enemies of the government, before the New Way came. The South had restricted the civil rights of negroes. The anarchists

counted upon their sense of this injustice. For weeks their messengers were busy, trying to fan resentment into a flame of destruction. At length they set the day for the uprising. Leaders of the evil scheme were scattered through the South. They had tried to keep their purpose concealed, but the African is not secretive and he divulged the plot.

On the Sunday before the appointed day, men of influence among them, spoke to their congregations as wise men should. The anarchists were amazed to find that even the most ignorant and degraded blacks were loyal to the whites and utterly refused to strike a blow.

When these facts became known to the Southern people, when they thought of 1822 and how terrible such an uprising would have been, especially in the many communities where the negroes far outnumbered them, a swift revulsion of feeling ensued. With true Southern frankness and manliness, they made this proposal:

"We cannot be to each other as if all were white or all black. Neither you nor we desire that. But you shall have your legal and civil rights. Offices shall be fairly open to you according to merit, as you are competent to fill them. Your dwellings, your churches, your schools, your cars, shall be as good as ours. We will respect character in you and will not forget that, when you were tempted to do us harm, your hand spared us."

This disclosure and pledge came at the very time when the New Platform was in preparation. Nowhere was its ratification more hearty and sincere than in the South. All men, white and black, felt that now the troublesome color problem could wait for some unthought of solution in the far future.

Step 3. The Two Conventions.

Soon the time for party conventions drew on. The people had talked, as is their manner,

"About it and about, but evermore

"Came out by that same door wherein they went."

Here and there something like the old party vigor was manifest, but it was galvanized life. As a whole, the political atmosphere was bland, the skies blue, the breezes south by west. The notion of service, the true function of an office bearer, had come to possess men's minds and to make them more careful in the presence of responsibility. They knew that the deep, wide-reaching principles of the Platform were here to stay—the people would see to that —and that a public which had accepted these would be prompt to adopt others as experience should direct. In fact, the very men by whom offices must be filled were busy helping to carry out the new regime. It may be said that the voting body was watchful, serious, but not strenuous.

The Republicans held their convention in St. Louis; the Democrats in Cleveland. Here another significant thing appeared. The former had intended to meet a week earlier than the latter, but events over which they had no control made it impossible. We pass by these details in the volume and find the two conventions gathered in the same week.

The party declarations had been issued and were found to be substantially alike. They differed in the order of subjects, and each had a few minor points not in the other: but in all important principles they were so similar that the same committee might have prepared both.

The usual routine was followed with no special note of change until the time came for nominations. Then apathy seemed to fall upon each convention. It appears that the occupant of the White House had been asked privately if he would be a candidate. He had steadfastly adhered to his well-known declaration that he would not. At the same time it was clear that no man was so indispensable in carrying out the provisions of the Platform. In truth, leading men of all parties were busy guiding the splendid prosperity which had followed the great meeting. Many

regretted that an election should intrude at just this time. It seemed like a sign or challenge of division, while the whole nation was conscious of deepening unity.

The roll of States was called and not a single one presented a name. Men looked at each other. It was little short of ridiculous! At the same time there was a spirit of cheerfulness and calm good nature. They knew that the reason for this unheard of failure was the fact that, without intention, party government had been relegated to history—that instead of drawing apart into hostile camps, bawling and throwing mud, as in cruder times, the nation was facing right forward as one man toward better things.

Step 4. *The Proposal.*

Then Brian stood up in the Cleveland convention and offered the following resolution:

"Whereas, We, the Democrats of the United States, in convention assembled, have found ourselves unwilling to put any of our party forward as candidate for the highest office; and

"Whereas, We are aware that the reason is not, as might appear, indifference nor lack of worthy men, but a profound conviction that all the people of whatever party name are uniting in one forward movement; and

"Whereas, We have discovered through our party platforms that our purposes and opinions are similar; and

"Whereas, It seems to us bad statesmanship to perpetuate divisions which obtained under the old and discarded system of greed and oppression,

"Therefore, We, as a convention, do hereby invite the convention now sitting in St. Louis to adjourn simultaneously with ourselves to meet on the second day of July in Chicago, there to hold a Joint High Convention for the adoption of a platform and the nomination of such leaders as we may deem best qualified to promote the common good."

As the mover resumed his seat a murmur of approval ran through the hall. Then Rite, of the South, rose and said: "Mr. Chairman, I suggest that the words 'of greed and oppression' in the last 'whereas' be left out. We are moving swiftly away from the old. Let us commit such words to oblivion."

"By all means," cried Brian. "I accept the amendment."

"Then," continued the other, "I heartily second the resolutions."

They were passed with a unanimous "aye," and telegraphed to St. Louis.

Step 5. *The Response.*

Within an hour came the reply: *"We, as individuals and as a convention, do heartily coincide with your opinions, and recognize their statesmanlike quality. We, too, have failed to nominate, having discerned through the spirit of the time and the harmony of our platforms that in essentials we are one people.*

"Like you we count it worse than folly to perpetuate even the forms of division. Accordingly, we now vote an adjournment to the time and place named by you, for the purpose set forth in your message."

Strikeshoulder points out the fact that in all these deliberations there was unusual quiet. News of the proposed union at Chicago was sent everywhere and received with entire satisfaction. If any objected they were those who had profited by the old divisions. No one dared to speak openly against the plan, knowing that the motive would be understood and sharply rebuked.

Step 6. *The Joint High Convention.*

July 3d the delegates, two thousand strong, gathered in the Auditorium. They who had taken charge of arrangements at St. Louis and Cleveland hastened to Chicago, where it was settled that the delegates from each State

should sit together. Some wished that the new fellowship might be expressed in a spectacular way. It was decided that all might gather at will in the hall and that as the hour for order approached they should pass out into the park, those from each State to gather in a company. Each company was then formed two abreast, in alphabetical order, every couple consisting of a "Democrat" and a Republican." To each man was given a silken Stars and Stripes. Thus, amid the cheers of thronging spectators, under the smiling sky of a summer morning, they filed into the Auditorium, where, upon the platform, stood a magnificent symbolic figure of Peace bearing Wealth in her arms.

By unanimous consent the mover of the resolution at Cleveland was elected permanent chairman. He accepted the office with an address such as no other man could pronounce.

Some of the chief men of the nation, discerning the significance of a joint convention, had thought it worth while to hasten to Chicago. Although, strictly speaking, they were not entitled to seats, it was voted to give the afternoon of July 2d and the forenoon of the 3d to speeches and the promulgation of a manifesto. Brian's grand effort set the pace, and men like Huze, Cockran, Taf, Golden, Bevrij, Nox, Loj, Tilmun and others, spoke, not only to those in their hearing, but, through the press, to the whole country.

A comparison of the sentiments uttered shows a similarity to the Great Platform, but with a subtle difference. At the mass meeting all was in the future. High hope, firm resolve were there, but of course nothing more. In the Chicago convention, on the other hand, men came fresh from splendid experience. Instead of platitudes and cross-firing—the staple of old-time conventions—man after man arose and told how they were carrying out the Great Resolutions and what excellent results had been attained already.

At length, on the afternoon of July 3d, the question of

a presidential candidate was reached. The chairman reviewed the situation; neither party had united upon a man. But it was thought that, as the roll of States proceeded, the way would be made plain. It was clear that most unusual care would be exercised to select the right one.

The roll began with Alabama. The chairman of that delegation ran swiftly over the questions uppermost in the minds of his colleagues. But he took his seat without presenting a name. State followed State in much the same manner. The speeches rang with courage, national pride, delight in the new prosperity, assurance for the future. So the afternoon passed and the evening likewise. Every State was called, yet none named a candidate.

Then, as the hour for adjournment was at hand, Foke suggested that they ponder the matter carefully and try again the next day. This seemed the only thing to do, and the motion to adjourn was put at once. As the chairman declared it carried, a clear, strong voice rang out, "If it were not for his own word I would nominate Theodore."

The rustle which had begun at the word "carried" was hushed as Mead, of the West, began his remark. But when he reached the last word it was as if a mighty flood, long pent, burst forth. A shout arose that echoed and re-echoed through the great hall. It was caught up outside and met the delegates as they poured forth.

"Thus," says our volume, "while there was peace and good will on every side, the work they had come to do seemed no nearer completion. Nobody was anxious. A right solution was sure to come, but how? Whence? No one could guess, and no one did.

July 4th was ushered in at early dawn with the noise so dear to American hearts. Indeed, the nation felt that it had more cause to "celebrate" this year than ever before. The Declaration of Independence at last had come to its own. Knowing that there could be no sleep in Chicago that morning, the hour for convening had been set at nine.

Delegates gathered in groups in the park, enjoying the lake breezes, for the day promised to be warm.

As the hour for opening approached there was unwonted excitement around the doors of the Auditorium. Not one of them could be opened. Some one had tampered with the locks. Curiosity had gathered the delegates about the main entrance when, at five minutes past nine, a locksmith threw back the great doors. The men entered. There on every seat lay a sheet of paper. Upon each piece, printed in royal purple, was a crown, and across it the words "Theodore Rex."

The men took these slips and sat quietly considering what this might mean. No one knew how the crowns came to be there, "nor," says Viter Strikeshoulder, "is it known unto this day."

Then a murmur of conversation arose. The chairman made no haste to call the convention to order. Huze and Wilsn were seen in conference, just behind the chairman. When at length the gavel fell Huze stepped forward. Waiting until there was profound silence, he raised the purple crown in his left hand, pointed to it with his right, and asked in a level, business-like tone, "Why not!" That broke the tension, and, from all over the hall, rang out the response, "Why not, indeed? By all means! That would solve the problem."

Then Wilsn advanced and said, "Mr. Chairman and gentlemen. The way opens. We groped for a candidate and found none. It appears that an over-ruling Providence, always kind to America, has led us aright. Kings are what subjects let them be. No king can oppress the American people. Public opinion will be content with the word when it means what it should and what it will when Theodore shall bear it. We can teach Europe what a king should be. A nation that can do what ours has done can safely do what it will with the names and forms of government.

Already party distinctions are dead. We have entered new paths, straighter and higher.

"I move that a committee be chosen to consider what changes are necessary to enable this convention to nominate a king; said committee to announce the hour of its report to-day by a simultaneous pealing of all the bells in Chicago."

Step 7. The Platform.

This motion prevailed. A committee of seven wise men met in a side room. Parka was made chairman and Delany secretary. An hour later a joyful sound of bells reassembled the delegates. The report was, in substance, this:

If the suggestion of a king had come under the old regime, it would have been impossible to make the necessary adjustments. Now, however, but little change will be required in laws or constitution. Since Theodore had been a leader in the New Way, he would be sure to give the office of king a truly American meaning. In view of these things certain resolutions were offered for consideration:

1. *That the Joint High Convention assembled in Chicago on July 4, 190—, does hereby endorse and reaffirm the Great Platform already adopted by the American nation.*

2. *That the convention nominates Theodore for King of the United Kingdom of America for the term of four years.*

3. *That it nominates Brian and Taf as "Caesars," after the plan of Diocletian; that these be considered nominees for the throne, the next convention to choose between them or candidates at large, and then name another candidate for the office of "Caesar."*

4. *That the "Caesars" be secretaries, one of State, the other of the Treasury, according to the royal choice.*

5. *That at the end of four years the King shall become "Rex Honorabilis," with high advisory powers.*

6. *That the machinery of government shall proceed as hitherto; needful adaptations to be made as experience shall direct.*

7. *That a commission shall be selected by the Supreme Court to examine the manners and customs of royalty in the Old World, that errors and unnecessary forms may be avoided.*

8. *That consistent adhesion to the Great Platform shall be the prime mark and proof of fitness for the throne.*

So sane and sufficient did these propositions appear that they were adopted by a rising vote, the delegates waving the Stars and Stripes and shouting a mighty assent to the question.

At twelve o'clock, July 4, 190—, the convention adjourned, having brought before the people a change in the form of government, though not in the substance thereof. Indeed, the nation had become noble before ever it had a king.

Step 8. *The Effect.*

This astonishing deliverance was flashed over the country. In the old days it would have seemed high-handed, but now it was received with enthusiasm because it met the wishes of the people. The resolutions were accepted as the platform of the campaign. Theodore consented in a speech that set the key for those that followed. In fact, the contrast between this and any former campaign was of the widest. Instead of harsh words and silly charges, believed by nobody, men dwelt, as in the Chicago convention, upon the happy results of the New Way. They told how everyone was enjoying the self-respect that comes with conscious usefulness, how great corporations were pushing the productive power of the country to its best, how want had fled before peace and plenty as the nation stepped forth to take her place at the head of the civilized world.

The election was but a form to register the national will. The commission to inspect European governments had sailed already.

Step 9. The Court.

The volume tells of an audience had with King Edward VII. His Majesty admitted that, though he had been accustomed to forms and ceremonies all his life, he often found them wearisome. He admitted that money used to maintain palaces might far better be spent for the public weal. Learning the situation across the Atlantic, he earnestly advised the commission not to recommend the cumbrous, mediæval harness of an Old World court, but to keep the simple, democratic ways everywhere known and honored as American.

Consultation with Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Mr. Balfour, Mr. Morley, Mr. Redmond, Sir William Vernon Harcourt and others, confirmed this opinion. They mentioned certain minor changes long considered with favor by us—that Cabinet members have a seat and voice in Congress, that Senators be chosen by popular vote, and that some provision be made for Senators-at-Large. The creation of a "Master of the Horse and Bear Hounds" was suggested but not pressed.

The commission met similar views on the Continent. Kaiser Wilhelm, always a warm friend of America, earnestly recommended adhesion to the names and customs which had grown up on the soil and made American travelers so interesting to their European hosts.

These things were reported by the commission and accepted by the nation. Names and forms familiar by reason of usage were retained. Even the word "coronation" was avoided, as well as the form. The only phrase that smacked of royalty, when the King was inducted into office, was this, "A wise king makes his own crown."

Step 10. *Canada.*

Being the first outside our own land to witness the marvelous prosperity of the new kingdom, Canada has already made overtures for union. It appears probable, unless England does as we have done, and quickly, that all the territory north of our line will come to us. It would make a magnificent realm here in the New World.

Step 11. *The Kingdom.*

Viter Strikeshoulder takes 281 pages to tell the story of the conventions and their issue. We have only made extracts here and there. It is no wonder that Theodore was pleased as he read. The peaceful revolution is here. Many things are only in process of adjustment, but the way is opening easily. Business never was so good. The land overflows with plenty. Skill and brain power bring profit to the Commonwealth rather than to the individual alone.

Morals and education receive due attention. Comforts multiply, not for the few, but for all. Problems considered impossible to solve now disappear or settle themselves. It means a new era for the race. The nations of the earth will soon fall into line with

"The United Kingdom of America, Theodore, R."

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"The wind blows east, the wind blows west.
The blue eggs in the robin's nest
Will soon have wings, and beak, and breast,
And flutter, and fly away."

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